

In the claims

1. (currently amended) A method for providing printer information to a user operating a computing device, the method comprising:

displaying a dialog box to a user in response to a user input, the dialog box including a link to an embedded web server (EWS) of a printer, the EWS maintaining status information corresponding to the printer, wherein the link is displayed within the dialog box without the user having to input the link such that the link is automatically displayed within the dialog box as part of the dialog box being displayed; and

in response to the user actuating the link, providing the user with the status information corresponding to the printer from and by the EWS, via the EWS of the printer directly communicating with the computing device operated by the user through a network and not communicating with the computing device through any server computing device.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the dialog box comprises multiple pages; and

in displaying the dialog box to the user, the link is provided on a first of the pages that is displayed.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the dialog box is a print dialog box.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the print dialog box comprises a Properties actuator, which, in response to actuation thereof, displays multiple pages; and

the link is provided on a first of the pages displayed to the user in response to actuating the Properties actuator.

5. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the print dialog box comprises a Properties actuator, which, in response to actuation thereof, displays multiple pages; and

the link is provided on one of the pages displayed to the user in response to actuating the Properties actuator.

6. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the print dialog box comprises a Properties actuator, which, in response to actuation thereof, displays a Layout page and an About page; and

the link is provided on the About page.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the EWS comprises information corresponding to a service manual of the printer.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the method additionally comprises providing a list of printers from which the user is able to print, each of the printers having corresponding printer information associated therewith; and

in response to the user selecting one of the printers of the list, a corresponding link to a EWS that comprises the printer information associated with the printer selected is displayed.

9. (currently amended) A method for providing printer status information to a user operating a computing device, the method comprising:

providing information corresponding to a link to a user of a printer, the link corresponding to an embedded web server (EWS), the EWS maintaining status information corresponding to the printer, the link being displayable to the user in response to a user input such that, in response to the user actuating the link, the user is provided with the status information corresponding to the printer, the status information provided from and by the EWS,

wherein the link is displayed within a dialog box that is displayed, the link being displayed within the dialog box without the user having to input the link such that the link is automatically displayed within the dialog box as part of the dialog box being displayed,

wherein the EWS of the printer directly communicates with the computing device operated by the user through a network and does not communicate with the computing device through any server computing device.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein, in providing information corresponding to a link to a user of a printer, the information corresponding to the link is installed in the printer.

11. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein, in providing information corresponding to a link to a user of a printer, the user installs the information corresponding to the link in the printer.

12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein:  
the user has access to multiple printers; and  
the method further comprises:

providing the user with a link to an EWS that comprises printer information corresponding to one of the multiple printers currently selected by the user.

13. (currently amended) A system for providing printer status information to a user operating a computing device, the system comprising:

a status link system operative to display a link to an embedded web server (EWS) of a printer to a user in response to a user input, the link being displayed in association with a dialog box, the EWS maintaining status information corresponding to the printer such that, in response to the user actuating the link, the user is provided with the status information corresponding to the printer, the status information provided from and by the EWS,

wherein the link is displayed within the dialog box without the user having to input the link such that the link is automatically displayed within the dialog box as part of the dialog box being displayed, and

wherein the EWS of the printer directly communicates with the computing device operated by the user through a network and does not communicate with the computing device through any server computing device.

14. (original) The system of claim 13, further comprising:

a computer system comprising:

a processor operative to execute instructions;

memory communicating with the processor and operative to store instruction executable by the processor; and

printer interface instructions stored by the memory, the printer interface instructions being operative to display a print dialog box to the user in response to a user input, the link being displayed in association with the print dialog box.

15. (original) The system of claim 13, wherein:

the printer interface instructions are executable to display a list of printers with which the computer system has access, each of the printers having corresponding printer information associated therewith; and

in response to the user selecting one of the printers of the list, the status link system is operative to display a corresponding link to an EWS that maintains the printer status information associated with the printer selected.

16. (original) The system of claim 13, further comprising:

a printer communicating with the computer system.

17. (original) The system of claim 13, wherein the status link system is stored by the printer.
18. (original) The system of claim 13, wherein the status link system is stored by the computer system.
19. (original) The system of claim 13, wherein the status link system is stored on a computer readable medium.
20. (original) The system of claim 13, further comprising:  
means for displaying the link.